Collection of tax for maintenance of roads

†2272. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amount for maintenance of roads will be collected from public as tax;

(b) if so, whether transport will become costly due to Government charging Toll Tax and Road Maintenance Tax;

(c) if so, whether this tax will affect the cost of internal products also which will in turn affect poor people of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal for collecting any Road Maintenance Tax. The user fee (Toll) is levied as per the provisions of National Highways user fee Rules and collected by the National Highway Authority of India. The revenue from such user fee is used for development and maintenance of national highways.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Maintenance of roads/highways by private developers

2273. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any specific clause about the period of maintenance of roads/ highways after these have been completed and put to use;

(b) if so, the bank guarantees taken from the private developers or part of their final payment is retained for this purpose; and

(c) how many such incidents happened in 2007 and 2008 when private developers did not fulfil their contractual commitments and bank guarantees had to be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) In case of Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) projects of NHDP, the contractors have to carry out correction of defects besides completion of minor incomplete items during the Defects Liability Period. The maintenance of completed projects is being undertaken through Operation and Maintenance (O&M) contracts. In case of Build Operate and Transfer (Toll or Annuity) projects, it is the responsibility of the concessionaire to maintain the project highway for the entire concession period including construction period.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) In case of EPC contracts, the Bank Guarantees against the Performance Security and 50% of Retention Money are retained till 365 days after the completion of Defect Liability Period or final payment, whichever is earlier. In case of BOT contracts there is a provision for retaining Bank Guarantee for performance security for one year from the appointed date or expending 20% of Total Project Cost (TPC) on construction whichever is earlier provided the concessionaire is not in material breach of agreement.

(c) No such incident occurred.

Four laning of Gandhidham-Mundra Section of NH-8A

2274. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 264 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22 July, 2009 and state:

(a) whether pre-qualification of concessionaire has been evaluated for four laning of Gandhidham-Mundra Section of NH-8A;

(b) whether this proposal has been approved and request for proposal has been invited from the pre-qualified bidders for the award of work; and

(c) if so, the time by when the work is likely to be started on four laning of Gandhidham-Mundra Section of NH-8A?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The project is targeted to be awarded to the concessionaire for construction of road, during the year 2009-10. The work is likely to commerce during 2011-12.

Development of Surat-Dhule section of NH-6

2275. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for development of Surat-Dhule section of National Highway-6;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame fixed for completion of works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Surat – Maharashtra/Gujarat Border section of NH-6 in the State of Gujarat is being widened to 4-lane under NHDP-III on BOT toll basis by NHAI. As regards Maharashtra/Gujarat Border to Dhule in the State of Maharashtra the road is 2-lane.

(b) and (c) Concession Agreement with the selected concessionaire has been signed and the target of completion of works is May, 2012.